

**Kessler, Ellen**

**From:** Andrew Gilmer [gilmermac@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2009 9:39 PM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** Capx2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

I am concerned with CapX2020's plan to install new transmissions lines across MN. I recognize that the country's energy needs need to be addressed and that doing so may require new infrastructure to be built. This is not a "not in my backyard" situation. I am asking for the public to be given a choice after an independent fact finding study with reasonable assumptions has been accomplished. A study that demonstrates the future need for power, while considering a spectrum of options. These options should include improvements to energy efficiency, reduction in per capita energy consumption, off the grid technologies and distributed generation. Only after a thorough study is accomplished should we take action that is on scale with CapX2020's plans. In addition, if such an "improvement" in infrastructure is required, care should be made to place that infrastructure along already established lines of communication. For example routing the lines along the I94 and I90 corridors and established bridges vs. ruining pristine bluff country in SE MN and placing new high tension lines across the Mississippi. While this would cost more it would minimize the impact on both the beauty of the land and potential harmful impact on bird species found along the Mississippi and the threatened Eastern rattle snake habitat in SE MN. The local citizen should be given a voice in how their power is generated and routed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Gilmer

I-206-001

I-206-003

I-206-002

**I-206-002**

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com).

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**I-206-003**

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.